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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

25X1 INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY China

DATE:

INFO: [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT Political and Military Information: Restrictions
on Personal Freedom of Smolny Crew

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PAGES 2

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT

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1. Before going ashore in Shanghai crew members of the Smolny were advised to spend some time in the Soviet Club. Some of the more intelligent members of the crew, mostly members of the engineering staff, were deeply impressed by the abundance of goods of all kinds in Shanghai and the luxurious living standard of the Soviet citizens whom they met at the Soviet Club. They openly expressed their wonder at the desire of Shanghai Soviets to return to the USSR. Crew members stated that life in the USSR, particularly in Vladivostok, was miserable. While in Shanghai they are ordered to wear their best clothes and uniforms, but as soon as the Smolny departs they must store their good clothes and appear in Vladivostok in old clothes.

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2. Many former members of the crew have been arrested in Vladivostok or reprimanded for describing the real situation in Shanghai. One member delivered a letter to a Soviet citizen in Shanghai concerning the fate of her missing husband, who had gone to the USSR two years ago. Upon return to Vladivostok, this member was placed under arrest.

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3. There are women members among the crew of the Smolny.

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4. The Soviet authorities in Vladivostok have adopted a routine policy of shifting crew members from one ship to another. This policy prevents intimate friends from remaining on the same ship for any length of time. As a result members of the crew are strangers, at least for a while, and there is always a member of the Soviet Secret Police aboard. On every trip of the Smolny to Shanghai there are new crew members. During the past year the entire crew has been changed twice.

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5. During the last trip of the Smolny to Shanghai [REDACTED] no persons were permitted to visit the ship and no members of the crew were permitted to go ashore, with the exception of one small group. An officer was in charge of this group and no member was allowed to leave the others at any time or even to talk with trusted local Soviet citizens.

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6. The reasons for the recent enforcement of these special restrictive regulations

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for the crews of Soviet ships are as follows: (a) the crews contain members transferred from ships which are transporting war material (type unstated); (b) the crews are brought from localities where fortifications are being built: the Kuriles, Sakhalin, Kamchatka, and Korea; (c) the Soviets do not want any possible leakage of military information in connection with the broad program of defense being carried on by them in the Far East. These are military regulations, the violation of which is a court martial offense.

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